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Brooke F Adams 09/05/2006 11:02:00 AM From DB/Inbox: ECPO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 00444

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 000444

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 8/29/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UN](#) [LY](#) [SU](#)
SUBJECT: URGENT LIBYAN DEMARCHE ON DARFUR

CLASSIFIED BY: Greg Berry, Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy
Tripoli, State.
REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (C) MFA Under Secretary for European Affairs Abdelati Obeidi called in the UK and U.S. Charges separately on August 29 to deliver an urgent demarche about discussions in New York about a draft UNSC resolution on Darfur. Obeidi noted that African members of the Security Council, the Arab League and the Islamic Conference had all expressed serious reservations about the substance of the draft resolution under discussion in the UNSC. The Libyans believe that an Article 7 resolution imposed on Sudan without its consent would be "a gift to al-Qaeda." In that regard, Obeidi cited Zawahiri's comments about Sudan in a recent broadcast.

¶2. (C) If intervention in Sudan from the outside is essential, Obeidi said, then the forces involved should be exclusively African -- "maybe with blue hats." "Foreign" (i.e., non-African) forces would be a cause of deep concern to countries in the region -- could in fact lead to "catastrophe." The Sudanese government is not in control of the situation ("Sudan is not Bashir"), and the insertion of outsiders could lead to civil war.

¶3. (C) Despite the depth of concern about the resolution as drafted, there is a readiness on the part of African governments and Arab League members to work toward consensus, Obeidi said. He invoked the UNSC's experience on Lebanon, when an Arab League delegation went to New York for consultations with UNSC members. The same kind of process may work in the Sudan case. Obeidi strongly urged that the U.S. and UK as cosponsors of the resolution consult closely with African members of the Security Council and take their concerns fully into account.

14. (C) The Charge recalled the many bilateral discussions we have had on this topic. Obeidi acknowledged that U.S.-Libyan policy differences on this issue have been evident for some time, but repeated Libya's view that a resolution "to be of use needs to be practical and implementable" -- that is, must be the product of consultations leading to consensus.

BERRY